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NSA SAYS CRYPTOLOGY SCIENCE MUST BE LIMITED

The director of the National Security Agency said last week that private work in the United States on telecommunications cryptology -- the science of devising and breaking secret codes -- must be limited in order to maintain the nation's capability of monitoring the communications of adversary nations.

NSA Director Vice Adm. B. R. Inman, in the first public talk by an NSA chief since the agency was established in 1952, told the Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association that "a new and unprecedented non-government interest" in telecommunications cryptology could result in the world-wide dissemination of cryptological information, particularly through academic exchanges.

"The Government can prevent the export of cryptological equipment," he said, but there is no restriction on the publication of details or techniques. He said that controls should be strengthened because "the national security mission entrusted to NSA is imperiled."

At the same time, Inman said that NSA is willing to talk with industry to work out guidelines to protect its secrets while ensuring that U.S. data banks could not be exploited for other purposes or tapped by foreign governments.